

PATENT APPLICATION

5 METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR SCREENING ICRAC
 MODULATORS

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15 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

 The present invention relates to compositions and methods directed at screening or
characterizing compounds that modulate the activity of calcium channels in cells
preferably, calcium-release activated channels in cells. The compositions and
methods can be used to produce inhibitors or activators of said channel, which
20 represent leads or candidate therapeutic drugs for treating various pathological
conditions. More specifically, the method comprises (a) contacting a test compound
and a calcium channel activator, preferably an Icrac activator with a population of
calcium channel expressing cells, preferably Icrac expressing cells containing a
reporter construct comprising a reporter gene under the control of a NFAT-
25 inducible promoter, and (b) determining the activity of the test compound on the
calcium release-activated channel by assessing the reporter gene expression in said
cells.